

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 encoding a Melanoma Differentiation Associated Gene5 (Mda-5) polypeptide.
2. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a cDNA sequence encoding an Mda-5 polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acidmolecule wherein (i) at least 90 percent of the nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 match the nucleotides of said isolated nucleic acid molecule, and (ii) ~~the protein encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises a caspase recruitment domain and a RNA helicase domain, and~~ (iii)introduction of the isolated nucleic acid molecule into a HO1 melanoma cell leading to expression of the encoded protein reduces the cell's colony forming ability
5. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1, 2 or 4.
6. (Original) A host cell comprising the vedor of claim 5.
7. (Original) The host cell of claim 6, wherein the host cell is stably transformed with the vector of claim 5.
8. (Original) The host cell of claim 6, wherein the host cell is a tumor cell.

9. (Original) The host cell of claim 6, wherein the host cell is a melanocyte.
  10. (Original) The host cell of claim 6, wherein the cell is an immortalized cell.
  11. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 8, wherein the tumor cell is selected from the group consisting of a melanoma cell, a neuroblastoma cell, an astrocytoma cell, a glioblastoma multiforme cell, a cervical cancer cell, a breast cancer cell, a lung cancer cell and a prostate cancer cell.
- 12-30. (Cancelled)